UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/2652
(CUB/77/004)
11 January 1980

ENGLISH ONLY

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA

Project title and number:	Development of a Maintenance Programme for the Cuban Sugar Mills (CUB/77/004)
Executing Agency:	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Government co-operating agency:	Ministry for Sugar Industry
Date of approval:	November 1978
Estimated starting date for project operations:	January 1979
Duration:	One year
Estimated value of the Government input expressed in US dollars:	$ 1 330 000 (In kind)
Estimated UNDP contribution:	$ 380 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. Sugar has historically been, and still is, the cornerstone of the Cuban economy, and as a result, the country is greatly dependent on its capacity to process and refine the cane both for local consumption and for export. The majority of the 150 sugar mills at present in operation were built around the beginning of the century. Because of the difficulties of obtaining spare parts for the existing equipment, the machinery of the industry has tended to become very old, and in many cases obsolete, as well as being very diversified. This situation has greatly hindered the efficient operation of the sugar mills, with corresponding problems in the field of maintenance and repair, hence the need for assistance in solving them.

2. The present project is a follow-up to two earlier UNDP projects in the field of maintenance in the sugar industry, namely, Maintenance Organization and Operation of Maintenance and Repair Shops in the Sugar Industries (CUB/71/803) and Maintenance and Repair Shops (CUB/74/003), and several of the recommendations made by these projects are included in the present national maintenance programme, and will be followed up in this present phase.

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3. It is also complementary to two other UNDP-assisted projects related to technological development of sugar cane derivatives, Research and Development Centre for Industrialization of Bagasse (CUB/73/006)1/(Phase II) and Research Centre for the Fermentative Industries (CUB/74/011)2/.

4. The present project is attached to the Department of Maintenance of the Ministry of Sugar Industry and the Cuban Institute for Sugar Research (ICINAZ).

II. The project

5. The development objectives of the project are to improve the efficiency of the Cuban sugar industry, raise the productivity of the maintenance staff, and better utilize the existing industrial capacity.

6. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) establish a system of inspection and control in the sugar mills; (b) improve the capacity to make repairs; (c) contribute to the creation of a centre for technological development in maintenance and repair; and (d) train a group of maintenance experts.

7. UNDP will provide experts and consultants in three different specialities (maintenance engineering services; protection, measuring and anticorrosion; and maintenance organization), fellowships and equipment.

8. The Government will provide for the services of counterpart personnel, equipment and office facilities.

9. The expenditure components of the UNDP contribution are as follows:

	m/m	$
Experts and consultancy mission	30	160 000
Training		15 000
Equipment		200 000
Miscellaneous		5 000
		380 000

1/ DP/PROJECTS/467.
2/ DP/PROJECTS/937.

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA

Strengthening of the Agricultural Faculty of the Central University of Las Villas (CUB/77/005)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	February 1979 (Retroactive)
Starting date of project activities:	January 1979 (Excluding preparatory activities in 1977)
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Higher Education
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$ 790 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In Cuba, agricultural development is of particular social and economic importance with 36 per cent of the labour force being occupied in the fields of agriculture and forestry, and sugar cane alone contributing 75-85 per cent of the total value of the country's exports. Furthermore, agricultural development has to satisfy not only the food needs of the population, but also produce a surplus for export to finance the importation of capital goods. To achieve the envisaged development in the field of agriculture, the training of professionals at university level is a necessity.

2. The Government has given high priority to educational development and personnel training in agriculture in which the Faculty of the Central University of Las Villas plays an important role. In this field courses for both part-time and full-time students have been of great importance. Although considerable progress in agricultural training has been achieved, with respect to both the number of professionals trained as well as to the quality of the education given, the increasing needs of the country in these respects have not yet been met, hence the need for the present project.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250.000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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II. The project

3. The development objective of the project is to assist the Cuban Government in solving the problems resulting from the lack of highly qualified manpower in the agricultural sector, and thereby facilitate the implementation of the country's development plans in this sector.

4. The immediate objectives of the project are, among others, to: strengthen the laboratory facilities of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Las Villas, particularly through the supply of equipment; and improve the educational capacity of the Faculty, particularly the post-graduate training of high-level scientific personnel in the areas of animal virology and animal surgery; and improve the courses for part-time students.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP will provide the services of experts in education and research; fellowships; and a large variety of equipment.

6. The Government will provide personnel including the Project Manager and administrative support personnel, office facilities and equipment.

IV. Financial Data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total Approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	10 000	130 700	140 700
Training		22 000	22 000
Equipment		606 800	606 800
Miscellaneous		30 500	30 500
	10 000	790 000	800 000

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $3.759.418 (in kind).